

SERVICE OF CELEBRATION AND COVENANT RENEWAL

Season of Epiphany 4 February 2024

A covenant is a bond in blood sovereignly administered. —O. Palmer Robertson

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

It is God Himself who calls His people to worship. We do not call ourselves, but it is the King who opens His gates and beckons us into His courts.

Gospel Invitation—Romans 5:6

For while we were still weak, at the right time Christ died for the ungodly.

Sung Response—Come, Thou Fount Of Every Blessing, Vs. 1



Text: Robert Robinson, 1758; Music: NETTLETON, Asahel Nettleton, 1825.

Call to Worship—based on Psalm 89:1-4, 8, 52

Pastor: Sing of the steadfast love of the Lord, forever! Make known His faithfulness to all generations.

All: Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens You will establish Your faithfulness.

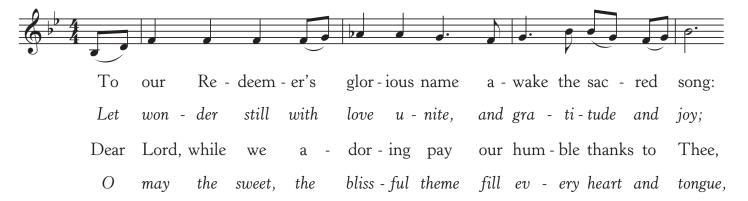
Reader 1: You have made a covenant with Your chosen one; You have sworn to David Your servant.

Reader 2: Establish David's offspring forever, and build his throne for all generations.

All: O Lord God of hosts, who is mighty as You are, O Lord, with Your faithfulness all around You?

Pastor: Blessed be the Lord forever! Amen and Amen.

Congregational Hymn—To Our Redeemer's Glorious Name





O His love im - mor - tal flame— tune ery heart and tongue. ev -Be su - preme de - light, His praise our best - us em - ploy. our May heart with glad - ness Sav ior died for ev - erv say, the me. Till Thy charm - ing name, strang-ers love and join the sa cred song.

Text: Anne Steel, 1760; Music: MCKEE, Irish Melody, arr. H. T. Burleigh, 1939.

GOD SPEAKS TO HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

The Bible is the means by which God graciously reveals Himself to His people—so we listen, read, and study with expectant hearts.

Antiphonal Scripture Song—Song At The Sea



Text: Exodus 15:1-21, Henry C. Haffner. 2022; Music: MIDNIGHT SUN. Henry C. Haffner, 2022.

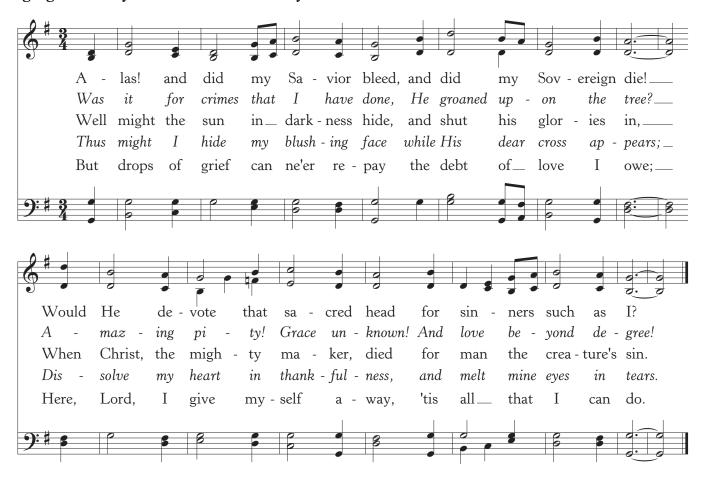
Scripture Reading—Exodus 24:5-8

[Moses] sent young men of the people of Israel, who offered burnt offerings and sacrificed peace offerings of oxen to the Lord. And Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and half of the blood he threw against the altar. Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it in the hearing of the people. And they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient." And Moses took the blood and threw it on the people and said, "Behold the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."

Elder: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Congregational Hymn—Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed



Text: Isaac Watts, 1707; Music: MARTYRDOM, Hugh Wilson, 1824.

Reading of the Word—Hebrews 9:15-28

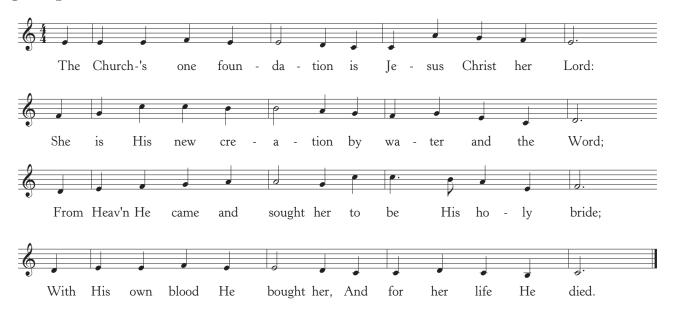
¹⁵ Therefore He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. ¹⁶ For where a will is involved, the death of the one who made it must be established. ¹⁷ For a will takes effect only at death, since it is not in force as long as the one who made it is alive. ¹⁸ Therefore not even the first covenant was inaugurated without blood. ¹⁹ For when every commandment of the law had been declared by Moses to all the people, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, ²⁰ saying, "This is the blood of the covenant that God commanded for you." ²¹ And in the same way he sprinkled with the blood both the tent and all the vessels used in worship. ²² Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood there is no forgiveness of sins.

²³ Thus it was necessary for the copies of the heavenly things to be purified with these rites, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these. ²⁴ For Christ has entered, not into holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true things, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God on our behalf. ²⁵ Nor was it to offer Himself repeatedly, as the high priest enters the holy places every year with blood not His own, ²⁶ for then He would have had to suffer repeatedly since the foundation of the world. But as it is, He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷ And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for Him.

Pastor: This is the Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Sung Response—The Church's One Foundation, Vs. 1



Text: Samuel J. Stone, 1866; Music: AURELIA, Samuel J. Wesley, 1864.

Sermon—The Blood of the Eternal Covenant

—Pastor, James Crampton

GOD CALLS HIS PEOPLE TO CONFESSION, REPENTANCE, AND RECONCILIATION

The people of God respond to His Word by confessing their sins, repenting of their sinful ways, and seeking God's favor through the reconciling work of Jesus, the Son of God.

Confession of Sin-based on Psalm 51:1, 4, 7, 14, 16-17

Pastor: Lord, we come confessing. Have mercy on us, O God, according to Your steadfast love; according to Your abundant mercy blot out our transgressions.

All: Against You, You only, have we sinned and done what is evil in Your sight, so that You may be justified in Your words and blameless in Your judgment.

Pastor: Purge us with hyssop, and we shall be clean; wash us, and we shall be whiter than snow.

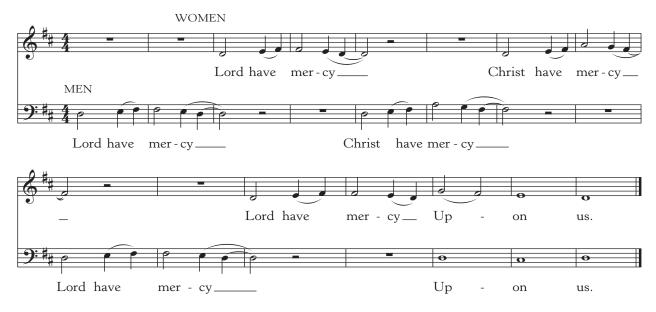
All: Deliver us from bloodguiltiness, O God, O God of our salvation, and our tongue will sing aloud of Your righteousness.

Pastor: For You will not delight in sacrifice, or we would give it; You will not be pleased with a burnt offering.

All: The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.

(Silent Prayers of Confession)

Sung Response—Kyrie



Text: Traditional; Music: Nathan George & Henry C. Haffner, 2012.

Assurance of Pardon—Ephesians 1:7-8; Matthew 28:19-20

In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace, which He lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight.

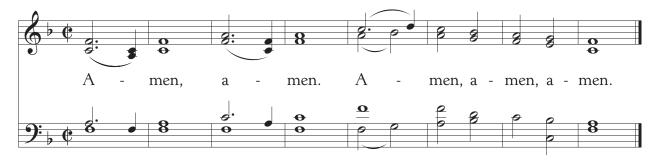
Pastor: This is the promise of God.

All: This is the Word of the Lord.

Pastor: Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.

All: Thanks be to God, our refuge, our strength, and our redeemer.

Sung Response—Fivefold Amen



Text: Traditional; Music: Traditional African-American Spiritual, arr. Nelsie T. Johnson, 1988.

HEAVENLY GIFT—EUCHARISTO

As God beckons His people to the bounty of His table, they make joyous profession of their fealty to Him.

Profession of Faith—The Apostles' Creed

We believe in God:

The Father Almighty, the Creator of Heaven and Earth;

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord: who was conceived of the Holy Spirit,

Born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,

Was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into Hell.

On the third day He rose again from the dead.

He ascended into Heaven and now sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty;

From whence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

We believe in the Holy Spirit; the one holy church—both visible and invisible;

The communion of saints; the forgiveness of sins;

The resurrection of the body; and the life everlasting.

Amen.

Sursum Corda

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them up to the Lord.

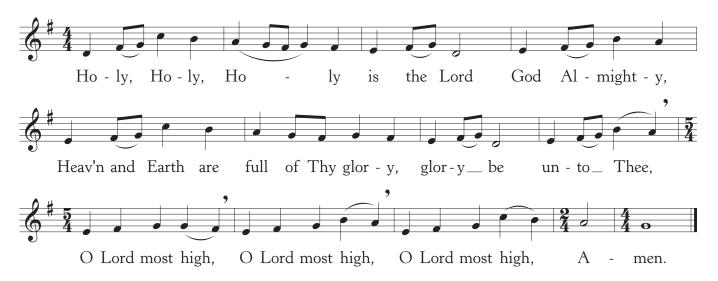
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

Pastor: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to You,

Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth. Therefore, we praise You, Triune God, and we join our voices with the angels, the archangels, and the whole company of Heaven

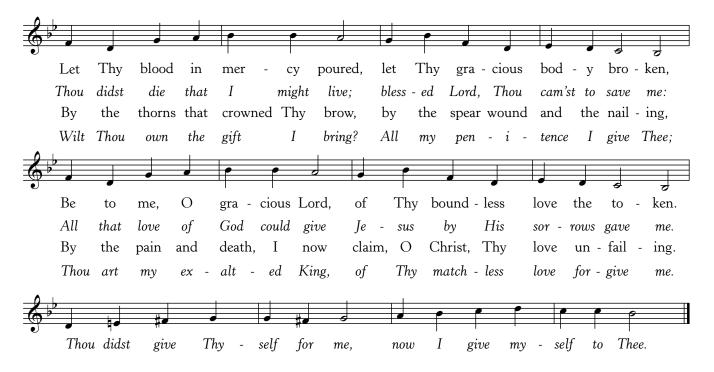
in this hymn of eternal praise:



WORDS OF INSTITUTION AND THE LORD'S TABLE

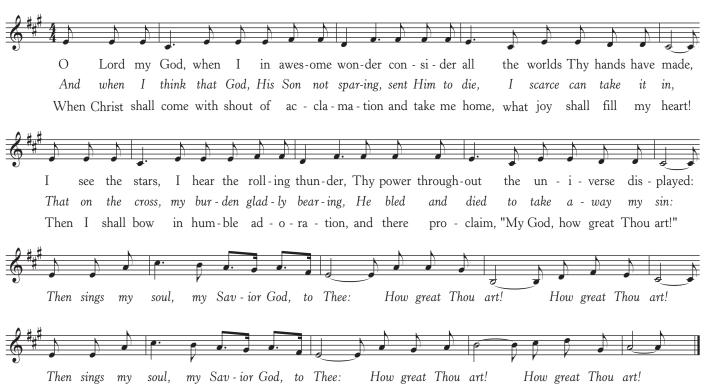
This table is open to all baptized Christians who have made a profession of faith. You may come forward to receive the bread and wine or grape juice.

Congregational Hymn—Let Thy Blood In Mercy Poured



Text: Greek Hymn, tr. John Brownlie, 1907: Music: JESUS, MEINE ZUVERSICHT, Johann Crüger, 1653.

Congregational Hymn—How Great Thou Art



GOD'S PEOPLE RESPOND IN GRATEFUL PRAISE, PETITIONS, TITHES & OFFERINGS

Our praying, serving, and giving are essential aspects of worship. It is here that our faith moves from our heads and hearts into our lives and callings.

Prayer of Thanksgiving and Intercession—The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name.

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

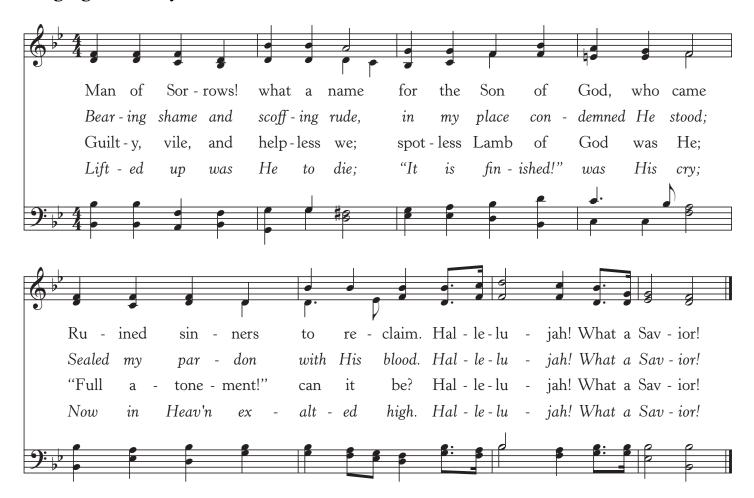
And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever.

Amen.

Congregational Hymn—Man Of Sorrows!



Text and Music: Phillip P. Bliss, 1875.

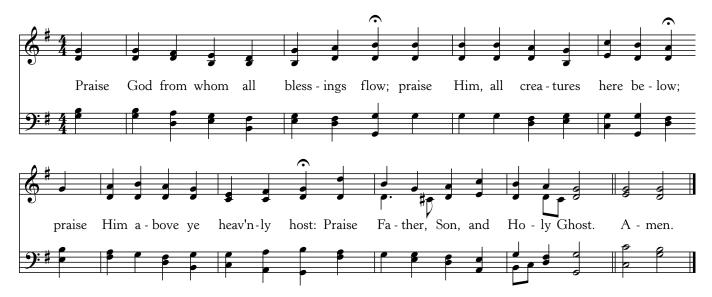
GOD SENDS HIS PEOPLE OUT

After calling His people into His presence, forgiving their sins, instructing them in His Word, and providing a foretaste of the marriage supper of the Lamb, God sends His people into the world to show His light in the darkness.

Benediction—Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great shepherd of the sheep, by the blood of the eternal covenant, equip you with everything good that you may do His will, working in us that which is pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom be glory forever and ever. *Amen*.

Sung Response—Doxology



Text: Thomas Ken, 1674; Music: OLD 100TH, Louis Bourgeois, 1551.

Announcements

Worship Notes:

Those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance, since a death has occurred that redeems them from the transgressions committed under the first covenant. —Hebrews 9:15b

The elements in this morning's service all point to one conclusion, a conclusion both terrible and comforting: Jesus had to die. We'll read that the new covenant was "inaugurated with blood" (Hebrews 9:15) just as the old one was (Exodus 24:8; Hebrews 9:18). We'll confess in song that "the Savior died for me" (To Our Redeemer's Glorious Name), that Christ "died for man the creature's sin" (Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed), and that He bought us with His own blood (The Church's One Foundation). We'll declare that His spilled blood and broken body are the token of His "boundless love" (Let Thy Blood In Mercy Poured), and we fall down in humble adoration before a God who sent His own Son to die to take away our sin (How Great Thou Art). Unlike the ancient priests who had to continually sacrifice animals because their work was never complete, we hear Jesus cry, "It is finished!" (Man Of Sorrows!). We are sent out with a blessing because the Savior who died was then "brought again from the dead" (Hebrews 13:20), securing for us eternal life and equipping us with all we need. —Henry C. Haffner

Key Words: Will, Death, Blood, Covenant, Purify, Forgiveness, Once

Keystone Verse: Indeed, under the law almost everything is purified with blood, and without the shedding of blood

there is no forgiveness of sins. (Hebrews 9:22)



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All Biblical quotes taken from the English Standard Version unless otherwise noted.